

People Select Committee

A meeting of People Select Committee was held on Monday, 20th November, 2017.

Present: Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell(Chairman), Cllr Eileen Johnson(Vice-Chairman), Cllr Sonia Bailey, Cllr Gillian Corr, Cllr Di Hewitt, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Lynn Hall (Vice Cllr Elsi Hampton).

Officers: Beccy Brown, Jill Douglas (HR&L), Jane Smith(PH), Gary Woods, Kirsty Wannop(DCE)

Also in attendance: Cllr Bob Cook(Leader of the Council)

Apologies: Cllr Elsi Hampton, Cllr Stefan Houghton, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley

**PEO
27/17** **Evacuation Plan**

The evacuation procedure was noted.

**PEO
28/17** **Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared.

**PEO
29/17** **Minutes of meeting held on 19th June 2017**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 19th June 2017.

Agreed that the minutes be approved and signed as a correct record.

**PEO
30/17** **Scrutiny Review of Sickness Absence**

Consideration was given to the Draft final report for the Scrutiny Review of Sickness Absence.

AGREED that the report be forwarded to Executive Scrutiny and Cabinet for consideration.

**PEO
31/17** **Scrutiny Review of Mental Health and Wellbeing including Suicide and Self-Harm**

The Committee was provided with a draft scope and plan for the Scrutiny Review of Mental Health and Wellbeing including Suicide and Self-Harm. Members were mindful of how vast the review could be and the needs for it to be focussed on a specific area. It was suggested to Members for the review to focus on the age group 14-25 and check how good mental health was being promoted and ill-health prevented, with a particular focus on preventing and mitigating the key risk factors for suicide and self-harm which may manifest themselves in this age group and in later life.

Members agreed the draft scope.

The Committee was provided with an initial presentation, and the main information included:-

- Definition of Mental health – resilience to stress, strains and adversity.
- Nationally, 1 in 10 children aged 1-15 would have some sort of mental health problem/issue.

- Nationally, self-harm was increasing and is the leading cause of death in children and young people.
- Nationally, increasing rates of female suicide though it was still 3 times more likely in males.
- Difficult to identify trends for local hospital admissions for mental health conditions for children as small numbers in Stockton - rates (of which 2015-2016 are similar to the national average) are therefore subject to greater fluctuation if there is a small increase in numbers.
- In-depth study into local self-harm rates (of which 2015-2016 are higher for children and young people aged 10-24 years in Stockton than the national average) found no emerging trends/patterns.
- Details of the national and local policy drivers were provided.
- Mental Health JSNA was about to be refreshed.
- Teeswide prevention strategy and taskforce - Public Health-led but brings in lots of other organisations.
- Children and Adult mental health needs assessments – emerging factors.
- National and local suicide statistics.

Members were then given opportunity to make comments/questions that could be summarised as follows:-

- 14 a good age to focus from - start of KS4, noticing changes in children, exam time.
- Young people did not like to be seen to be accessing services, it was very important that young people had confidentiality.
- Members may need to gain knowledge of tier system.
- From the initial information received it would seem that there was an opportunity for some targeted work with males.
- High rates of self-harm in Stockton - did we know why? Health and Wellbeing Board had a task group to look closer at self-harm. Work of this Committee could feed in to the work of that group.
- Destigmatising mental health and wellbeing and telling people it is ok to talk was needed.
- Young people get a lot from our youth services and groups, building self-esteem.

AGREED that the information be noted.

**PEO
32/17** **Work Programme**

The Committee noted its work programme.

**PEO
33/17** **Chair's Update**

The Chair had nothing to update.